

The Black National Anthem

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring.
Ring with the harmonies of liberty
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has
brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died,
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over away that with tears have been
watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood
of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
God of our weary years, God of our silent tears
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path we pray.
Lest, our heart's drunk with the wine of the world,
We forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land.

Words by: James Weldon Johnson,
1921

Music by: J. Rosamond Johnson,
1921

Source:

African American Almanac 1997